

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that the oath or declaration was defective. Applicant hereby submits a new oath or declaration identifying citizenship of each inventor.

The Examiner has objected to the abstract. Applicant hereby encloses a new abstract page and requests that it be entered into the record. Further, the Examiner has objected to the disclosure because of certain noted informalities. By the above amendments, Applicant has conformed the application to the requirement of the Examiner and as such, believes that the application is now acceptable.

The Examiner has also required a new title of the invention. By the above amendment, Applicant has changed the title to: METHOD FOR ROUTING DATA, and believes this to be as sufficiently descriptive for the Examiner's purpose.

The Examiner has also objected to the drawings. Applicant hereby encloses a new Figure 2, fully supported by the specification at page 5, lines 31-32. As such, Applicant believes that the drawings are now acceptable.

The Examiner has objected to claims 2, 3 and 6 because of certain noted informalities. Applicant has canceled claims 1-7; its replacement claims 8-11 are considered acceptable.

Claims 1-7 have been also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. As stated above, claims 1-7 have been canceled and the replacement claims 8-11 are considered acceptable, being enabled by the specification.

Claims 1-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Nagami, et al. Applicant has amended the claims, hereby presenting new claims 8-11 and believe that they recite over Nagami.

More specifically, Nagami teaches a packet transfer scheme under an internet environment (abstract). In an internet environment under TCP/IP, the headers of data packages only comprise information about the sender address and the destination address. However, the internet protocol does not foresee any data in the respective header of a packet that refers to the explicit routing or the transport path of the data packet. At least for this reason, Nagami does not anticipate the invention according to the new claim 1.

Nagami refers to a bypass pipe or virtual connection used in transmitting a packet from one logical network to another logical network. In paragraph [0026], Nagami discloses that the desired virtual connection is chosen according to a control message containing an identification information of the bypass pipe. Further, in paragraph [0029] this bypass pipe ID is set to specify a transmission terminal and a destination terminal. Nagami discloses at no point that a header may contain information on the entire transport path to be traveled. There is also no hint in Nagami that the data packet has to pass interfaces or data-communication-capable devices and that the header information is changed whenever a data packet passes such a device or interface. In fact, as mentioned above, the proprietary internet protocol does not provide for headers having such routing information. Hence the invention is deemed to be novel and non-obvious.

It is an advantage of the subject invention that by including the explicit routing information into the header that if devices are arranged in subnetworks, the ID's or the address of the devices do not need to be issued centrally as it is the case with the internet protocol. Rather, it suffices to identify the subnetworks by the ID of a bridge device and an internal address of the device. Doing so, it is easy to add further subnetworks to the network without the new devices to be registered centrally.

Applicant hereby requests reconsideration and re-examination thereof.

With the above amendments and the remarks, this application is considered ready for allowance, and Applicants earnestly solicit an early notice of same. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald T. Shekleton
Registration No. 27,466

Dated: November 18, 2004
WELSH & KATZ, LTD.
120 South Riverside Plaza
22nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60606-3913
Telephone: 312/655-1500